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To the Committee on Public Health in reference to "An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients: **Raised Bill No 6645**

My husband, John Pollack, and I, Mary Kelly Pollack, citizens of and taxpayers to the State of Connecticut testify that we are opposed to Bill No 6645.

We are deeply concerned about the tragic effects that this action will have on the weakest members of our state: the sick, the terminally ill, the disabled and the elderly, our loved ones. We are equally concerned about the long term affects this action will have on the goodwill and credibility of our doctors as well as the rapid erosion of the sense of trust we have in the integrity of our elected representatives and the honor of the office itself. We expect that as elected officials your vision is longsighted and directed towards what is best for all of our citizens. We hope that your judgment is prudent and clear, not clouded by personal self interest or the will of a few.

Knowing that it is your duty to carefully weigh the long term and widespread effects of a proposed Bill that allows a doctor to prescribe medication to terminally ill patients who will use it end their own life, and knowing that it is your responsibility to listen to your constituents, we pose several questions.

- 1.) How does this Bill show compassion? Compassion, by definition, means to suffer with. It does not mean to end a persons suffering by allowing them to take their own life? Terminally ill persons who would consider ending their own life are often depressed, afraid of what the future will bring or worried about being a burden to others? True compassion and genuine love and tender care that will relieve their suffering and fear should not be replaced by doctor prescribed medicartions that will cause an untimely death.
- 2.) Are there any physicians, whose primary purpose it is to save life, who are really so ready and so willing to prescribe these medications? The actions proposed in this Bill are contrary to what physicians are called to do and will impede the necessary relationship of trust between doctors and their patients?
- 3.) How is this not suicide? Suicide is the intentional taking of ones own life? Is this not the intentional taking one's own life? The Latin root *sui* means *of one self*. The Latin root word *cide* means killer. Thus, suicide means to kill or to be the killer of oneself just as pesticide is the killer of a pest.
- 4.) Who is meant to decide when life should end? Do I decide? Does my doctor decide? Should the Governor decide? And by what authority should one decide? What individual person can make that judgment ?
- 5.) Many of us already know the absolutely devastating effects that suicide and senseless murder have on families and communities? How can any responsible lawmaker vote to encourage actions that will further erode our alreadyfragile families and communities?

Senators and representatives, Vote no to Bill No. 6645

Your constituents, John and Mary Pollack